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COUNTRY

1. Bucharest-Cotroceni Airfield

TOPIC

2. Air Activity in the Bucharest Area

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

December 1950 to March 1952

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

10 March 1953

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES

1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between December 1950 and March 1952, source observed that an airfield, allegedly Bucharest-Cotroceni (R 43-44/C 64) airfield, was located northeast of camp Rachova III. During the entire period of observation, only one twin-engine Douglas plane and a high-wing monoplane, the latter similar to the Fi-156, took off from and landed once at the field. All the other planes observed in the air southwest of Bucharest were not stationed at this field.
2. Jet planes were observed flying southwest of Bucharest for the first time during the summer of 1951. They flew almost every day. After about November 1951, air activity by jet planes was intensified. Occasionally, the planes flew in elements of two and mostly in V-formation. Large formations of 30 to 50 jet planes were observed over the town only on the national holiday in August 1951. During the daily exercises, the jet planes practiced air combats and flew at all altitudes, sometimes with vapor trails. Firing at airborne targets was not observed. When flying at low level, source definitely observed several times that red Soviet stars were on the planes. Apparently, black two-digit numbers were painted on their fuselages.¹
3. On several consecutive days during the period from August to October 1951, parachuting was practiced over Ghencea training field in the evening hours. About 10 parachutists jumped from a Ju-52 plane at intervals of about 30 seconds. Once, parachuting was practiced from a twin-engine Douglas plane. The parachutes opened immediately.

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2. Comment. Bucharest-Cotroceni airfield is located northeast of camp Rachova III. It is known to be a small and unimportant field. The information on little air activity in Cotroceni airfield is credible. The appearance of Soviet jet planes during the reported period was mentioned in previous reports.

25X1A 2. Comment. Parachuting exercises over the Ghencea training field were reported previously.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S.

OFFICIALS 25X1

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